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For bill 5433

I would love to be able to work more than 25 hours a week for one consumer. I used to have two consumers through the PCA program, but one of them had to return to the nursing home because of a family crisis. This was bad for both of us because she lost her independence and I lost income.

Right now I am scheduled for 13 hours a week and I often do backup last minute calls because I live nearby my client. But no matter what, I cannot get paid for more than 25 hours week, even if I end up working more than 25 hours.

I have medical coverage through my wife's job, but I still have out of pocket medical costs like dental work and deductibles that are expensive. I've only earned \$2,000 since January of this year from my PCA position and what I owe in medical bills is higher than that.

If we had the opportunity to work more hours for one client, and make a higher wage, I could see better ahead. I have three kids and feeding and clothing them is difficult between what I and my wife earn.

We as PCAs need someone to speak for us. As individuals we have to advocate for better working conditions us. Individuals have no power by ourselves but with a union we can have a voice. We need the same rights other workers have to bargain a contract.